

THE GREAT FLOOD

LESSON #5

CHRONICLES OF
REDEMPTION



The Great Flood

Genesis 6:1-11:9

THEMES

God:

- Is patient—giving Noah's generation opportunity to repent.
- Is both loving and holy—being grieved at man's sin, He nevertheless judged man by the flood.
- Is the Author of grace—Noah found favor according to God's sovereign choice.
- Communicates with man—He revealed His will and plan to Noah.
- Is true to His Word—the flood came, the wicked were destroyed, and Noah was saved, just as God said.

Man:

- Is sinful—Noah's generation was overrun by wickedness.
- Is rebellious—hardening their hearts to Noah's preaching, they would not repent.
- Is proud—defiantly challenging the will of God at Babel.

Sin:

- Corrupts the human heart, marring God's image in man.
- Is inherited, passing from generation to generation.
- Blinds the minds of men to their spiritual condition before God and the coming day of judgment.

Faith:

- Is based on reverence for God.
- Believes the Word of God.
- Obeys immediately, completely, and without challenge.

INTRODUCTION

Whether from the mouth of a comedian, or from a bedtime story, most people have heard of Noah and the ark. Yet few today seriously consider this familiar Biblical account and its immense practical implications for modern man. It is the story of the corruption of the human race by sin to such a degree that the Creator—in an act of unprecedented judgment and destruction—swept the earth clean. It is the story of one man’s persevering faith in the face of social ridicule, impending doom, and ultimate isolation.

1

Corruption Of The Human Race



Read Genesis 6:1-12



SIN ESCALATES ON THE EARTH

Ten generations—at least 1500-1600 years—passed since Adam and Eve were driven from Eden. Fueled by long life spans, the population of the earth grew rapidly. Sin also _____ until the wickedness of man became unbearable to God. This escalation of evil was caused in part by the natural principle of sin working within the heart of man, but these verses clarify that sin was also accelerated by _____ between the *sons of God* and the *daughters of men*. Rather than speculate too long on the identity of the *sons of God*, it is more important to understand the outcome of their union with the *daughters of men*. Nearly the entire human race abandoned itself to evil.

- **“My Spirit shall not strive with man forever...” (6:3).**

God used Noah, elsewhere called a *preacher of righteousness*, to warn his generation (cf. 2 Pet. 2:5). Rather than sending immediate judgment, God patiently and mercifully gave the people of Noah’s day _____ years to repent (turn from their sin) and escape impending judgment. **Repentance** means a change of mind resulting in changed _____. The people of Noah’s day needed to turn from their own wicked ways to follow God’s way. They needed to change their minds about God and humbly submit to His authority over their lives. Their arrogant disregard of God’s patience only provoked His anger (cf. Rom. 2:4-8; 2 Pet. 3:9).



Genesis 6:5

"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."



THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS:

NOTES:

- **Exposed before God:** *"The Lord saw that the wickedness..."*
 - **Human in origin:** *"of man..."*
 - **Universal in scope:** *"was great on the earth..."*
 - **Dominating the motives:** *"and that every intent..."*
 - **Rooted in the mind:** *"of the thoughts of his heart..."*
 - **Perpetually prevalent:** *"was only evil continually..."*
- ***"Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked on the earth, and behold...all flesh had corrupted their way..." (6:11-12).***

This staggering analysis of the human condition came from the perspective of a holy God (cf. Isa. 55:8-9). In the eyes of the Creator, mankind is " _____," meaning *marred*, *contaminated*, or *spoiled*—an adulteration of his original created state (cf. Deut. 31:29; Prov.25:26; 2 Tim. 3:8).



Psalm 14:1-3

"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."



NEW TESTAMENT PICTURE OF MAN'S SINFULNESS

Excerpts from Romans 1:18-32

"The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all... men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness... For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened... They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures... For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever...



For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error...

God gave them over to a depraved mind... being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the [righteous judgment] of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."



GOD OF LOVE OR GOD OF WRATH?

- ***"And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. And the Lord said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created...'" (6:6-7).***

God's response to universal sin was universal condemnation. Here the attributes of God's _____ and _____ are displayed in perfect balance.

God's loving and compassionate nature does NOT take joy in _____ the wicked or destroying His creation, but asks, "Why should you die?" (Ezek. 33:11)—God *was grieved*.



GOD PLANS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE

- ***“But I will establish my covenant with you...” (6:18).***

Even before the event, God graciously initiated a _____ (a binding agreement) with Noah, promising to spare his family and a remnant of the animal world. Lest we imagine Noah frantically gathering the animals together, God states that they would *come* to him for protection (6:20), being miraculously sent by Him Who spoke the world into existence.



NOAH’S OBEDIENT FAITH

- ***“Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did” (6:22)***

1 ***He heard...*** Without God’s clear instructions, Noah would not have known what God required of him. God consistently _____ His will to man.

2 ***He believed...*** No one in Noah’s day had experienced either flooding or rain, for until then the earth had been watered by mist (Gen. 2:6). But even though God was about to do something entirely new, Noah believed God. Genuine faith believes without _____.

3 ***He obeyed...*** The New Testament reveals that Noah, “...being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark...” (Heb. 11:7). The great value Noah placed on God’s Word motivated him to _____. Genuine faith obeys immediately, completely, and without challenge.



Read Genesis 7:1-16

NOTES:



PROTECTION WITHIN

- ***“Then the Lord said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your household” (7:1).***

God alone determined who would enter the ark, drawing a decisive line of separation between those on the inside of the ark and those on the outside, those who would live and those who would perish, His people and His enemies.

- ***“You alone I have seen to be righteous before Me...” (7:1).***

The all-seeing God had seen the great wickedness of man (cf. 6:5) and the corruption which filled the earth (cf. 6:12), but here He sees Noah as a man *righteous* before Him. Noah became an *heir of righteousness*—one who had a right standing before God. He displayed his obedient _____ by building the ark (cf. Heb. 11:17). For him, God had prepared a way of escape.

- ***“Those that entered...went in as God had commanded...and the Lord shut [them] in” (7:16 NKJV).***

Here, in an act of gracious intimacy toward Noah and his family, God Himself closed the _____, sealing them in, and separating them from the wrath of His judgment on those without.



Read Genesis 7:17-24



DESTRUCTION WITHOUT

- ***“Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days...and the water prevailed...” (7:17-18).***

The incredible amount of water came both from the rain that was let loose from the _____ of the sky (the atmospheric canopy of water over the earth), and the _____ of the great deep (subterranean caverns of water below the earth) (cf. Gen. 1:6-7; 7:11; Ps. 29:10).

- ***“And all flesh that moved on the earth perished...Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land...and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark” (7:21, 23).***

The people who were destroyed in the flood viewed themselves as _____ people carrying out the affairs of everyday life. We see this in the New Testament when Christ discussed the story of Noah and the flood.



Matthew 24:38-39

“...In those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away...”

Blind and apathetic to their spiritual condition before God, the people of Noah's day were transacting business and pursuing their own affairs as though they had all the time in the world. They were unmoved by the building of the ark. They ignored the warnings of God through Noah. God mercifully gave them 120 years before He vindicated His holiness. But when judgment came, it came swiftly. It was too late for a change of mind. They did not understand the full weight of God's wrath until judgment fell, and they perished under its weight.

NOTES:



Read Genesis 8:1-19

- ***"But God remembered Noah..." (8:1).***

To remember is the Hebrew way of saying that God began to _____ again on their behalf. God remembered Noah and the living remnant by restraining the waters above and below the earth, and by causing a wind to pass over the earth to dry it. After _____ year and _____ days, Noah and all with him went out of the ark. God's Word can be trusted: He had promised to deliver Noah and his family from destruction, and He had done so. God's promises always come to pass.

3 The New World



Read Genesis 8:20-22

▶ THE SACRIFICE

- ***"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord..." (8:20).***

Noah's first act after the catastrophic flood was to offer burnt sacrifices to the Lord. This act of thanksgiving and _____ demonstrated Noah's allegiance to God's rule over the earth. Clearly, Noah understood that he was dependent upon God for his life. By offering a sacrifice, Noah admitted his sinfulness and need for cleansing. The substitutionary sacrifice of an innocent animal was the acceptable way to cover his sin and maintain fellowship with God.

- **“...The intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth” (8:21).**

Although the flood had purged wickedness from the earth, God knew that men would remain evil after the flood because of their inherited inclination to sin. The floodwaters could not wash away the natural depravity of the human _____.



Read Genesis 9:1-17



THE COMMAND & THE COVENANT

- 1 God commanded Noah to _____ life...** *“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth”* (9:1,7), reflects back to God’s original command to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28. It was God’s intent that man _____ throughout the whole earth. This repopulation of the earth marked a new beginning for mankind.
- 2 God commanded Noah to _____ life...** Although mankind was now permitted to kill animals for food, human life was to be protected from both man and animal. This is the first mention in the Scriptures of man governing man. God established that _____ would be the penalty for unlawful murder because man was made in the image of God (cf. Gen. 1:26-27).
- 3 God promised to _____ life...** *“And I will establish my covenant with you...”* (9:11). This is the first unconditional promise God made with man and is referred to as the Noahic covenant. Regardless of any actions of man, God promises never again to destroy the earth by a flood, marking His promise with the sign of the _____.



Read Genesis 9:18-19



THE NATIONS THAT DESCENDED FROM NOAH

All families and nations on the earth share common ancestry in Adam (cf. Acts 7:26), and more specifically, descend from one of Noah’s three _____. Genesis 10 records the repopulating of the earth after the flood by tracing the descendants of Noah’s three sons.

- 1** **The sons of Japheth** (10:2-5): Combining Scriptural references with other historical writings have helped determine the geographic location of these ancient nations. Japheth's descendants are generally associated with the Indo-European peoples.
- 2** **The sons of Ham** (10:6-20): Ham's descendants are typically linked to Arabia, Africa, and the Tigris-Euphrates region of ancient Babylon. Remarkably, etymologists now trace two of Ham's descendants to Cathay or China. Nimrod (10:8-12), whose name means *rebel*, was called a *mighty hunter before the Lord*. This powerful leader founded the kingdom of Babylon and built the great city of Nineveh, both of which were enemies of God's people throughout the ages (cf. Mic. 5:6).
- 3** **The sons of Shem** (10:21-31): Shem's descendants are the Semitic peoples north of the Persian Gulf. "*Children of Eber*" refers to the Hebrews, descendants of Shem (10:21). It would be through the line of Shem and Eber that the promised Redeemer would come (cf. Luke 3:35-36).

4 The Great Tower

After blessing Noah, God commanded him and his sons to repopulate and fill the earth (9:1,7). The following nine verses occur during the time of repopulation in Genesis 10 and detail the division that took place on the earth. This event actually occurred during the lifetime of Eber, who named his son Peleg after the division (cf. 10:25).



Read Genesis 11:1-4

Man plans for a _____, a _____, and a _____.

A CITY:

- **"...As they journeyed east, they found a plain...and they dwelt there" (11:2).**

Disregarding God's command to spread out, some chose to settle down. These were the descendants of Ham under the leadership of Nimrod (10:8-10). It was not difficult for them to live together in one place since they all spoke the same _____.

A TOWER:

- ***“Come, let us build...a tower whose top is in the heavens” (11:4).***

Many relate the tower to the early Mesopotamian ziggurat—a temple built for the purpose of worshiping deity. At the least, the building of the tower was an idolatrous act rooted in rebellion and pride—a mobilization to defy God’s command to man, and a trophy elevating human _____ above God’s purpose for man.

A NAME:

The ambition and motive driving the whole project is clearly stated:

_____ —“Let us make a name for ourselves ...” —is the prideful glorification of man.

_____ —“Lest we be scattered abroad ...” —is defiant autonomy.

This is man working for his _____ glory to accomplish his _____ plans. Following in the way of Cain, there was no room in their lives for God.



NOTES:

GOD SEES AND SCATTERS

- ***“But the Lord came down to see...” (11:5).***

Nothing escapes the notice of the all-seeing God.

- ***“Nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them” (11:6).***

From their single family heritage and common language emerged a remarkable coalition which facilitated man’s rebellion. Nothing could prevent its success except an act of God.

 **Questions**

1. Describe the characteristics of the people of Noah's day from God's perspective. How do they compare to modern man?

2. How did Noah's generation view *themselves*?

3. How did God warn Noah's generation of coming judgment?

4. What did God expect from Noah's generation in response to His warning? How did they respond?

5. What does the Bible mean by *repentance*?

6. How are the two attributes of God, love and holiness, displayed to Noah and his generation?

7. Did Noah deserve God's *favor*? What does the Bible mean by *favor* (grace)?

8. What were the characteristics of Noah's faith?

9. What was the purpose of Noah's burnt offerings to the Lord after the flood?

 **Questions**

10. According to Genesis 9:6, what is the value of human life?

11. Describe God's covenant with Noah. What was the sign of the covenant?

12. How does the account of the tower at Babel display man's rebellion? What command of God did they disregard?

13. Whom did Nimrod and his followers worship in place of God? What are some contemporary comparisons?
